

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF INDIANA

LIBRARY OCCURRENT

NUMBER 7

INDIANAPOLIS

FEBRUARY, 1907

COMMISSIONERS

JACOB P. DUNN, *President*, Indianapolis
MRS. ELIZABETH C. EARL, Connersville
WILLIAM W. PARSONS, Terre Haute

During the session of the Legislature the office of the Public Library Commission will be in Room No. 16, State House. Librarians, legislators and every one interested in library work in Indiana will always be welcome at the Commission office.

BOOK GIFT AND BOOKS EXCHANGED.

Mrs. Sallie Hughes, librarian of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, Terre Haute, makes the announcement through the Occurrent that she will be glad to present a set of the American State Papers, covering public lands, military and naval affairs from 1823-37, to any public library in Indiana needing this work. The set consists of twelve volumes, and will be sent free of charge excepting the expressage.

Miss Sue Beck, librarian of the Crawfordsville Public Library, has the following books which she will be glad to exchange for books of an equivalent value:

War of the Rebellion. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies:

Series I.—V. 1-3 (2 cop.), 5-6 (16, pt. 1), (19, pt. 2), (22, pt. 1), (31, pt. 2 & 3), (37, pt. 1), (38, pt. 5), (39, pt. 2), (40, pt. 3), (41, pt. 2, 3 & 4), (42, pt. 1 & 3), (43, pt. 1 & 2), 44 (45, pt. 2), 46 (48, pt. 1 & 2), (49, pt. 2), (50, pt. 1 & 2), (51, pt. 1, sup.), (52, pt. 1, sup. & pt. 2), 53.

Series II.—1-2-3-7-8.

Series III.—1-2-3-4.

Series IV.—v. 1.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies. Series I. v. 1-2-4-5-6-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

It is no longer true that what can be had for nothing is not worth the having or preserving. The increase in the number of agencies which distribute literature free, and whose aim is educational, has been as great or greater than the increase in the number of publishers of books for profit. A large portion of the useful accessions of the largest libraries come to them without cost, and although all of the resources of the larger libraries are not open to the smaller, it is still true that the smallest library which does any work for serious students or study clubs, or which does much general reference work, can secure valuable material for the asking. The chief difficulty is in knowing what is available and where to apply for it. Part of the time of the busy librarian, saved by such aids in book selection as the A. L. A. Booklist, might with profit be used in keeping track of the many institutions which issue publications for free distribution, and selecting therefrom such as would be useful to her patrons. It is not suggested that all publications of these bodies be secured. Some could not be obtained in this wholesale way, although a request for an occasional issue would be honored. And the receipts of a larger number of pamphlets and bulletins including as they would, much that would not be of interest or value to that particular library, would entail unnecessary labor on the part of the staff. The suggestion is given that the librarian should keep informed of these sources of printed matter and select from them

as she selects from the mass of books issued by the commercial publishers, those which seem best suited to her library. By this means she can secure much more material than would ordinarily be represented by a book fund of \$25, or \$50, or \$100, as the case may be.

In studying this field the following sources among others should be borne in mind:

1. Local Sources: Publications of clubs, societies, churches, political organizations, local printing offices, etc. This material, although valuable, will be of local interest merely.
2. The State: Publications of literary, scientific and technical societies; advertising matter and descriptive circulars issued by manufacturing concerns, city boards of trade, hotels and summer resorts, etc.; state documents and publications of the various state boards, e. g., those of agriculture, geology, fisheries, forestry, education.

Information regarding these publications may be obtained from the newspapers, local members of societies, the State Library and correspondence with other librarians.

3. Other States: Similar to the foregoing, but the material is more difficult to obtain as is information about it.
4. Colleges and Universities: Those of your own state would naturally be willing to send any publications of general interest not issued in too expensive a form. Most universities are liberal in this respect. Mr. Bay, of the John Crerar Library of Chicago, called attention, in *Public Libraries* for June, 1906, to the series of *Bulletins on Nature Study* issued by Cornell University, Hampton Institute and other colleges. The back numbers of these are not all available, but the current issues of most could be obtained for the asking. Information about this class of literature may be obtained from the college catalogues or by correspondence with the university librarian. Purdue University has a list of twenty-four *Bulletins on Nature Study*, issued in 1898, which will be sent to any library in the State on request.

5. Agricultural Experiment Stations: Bul-

letins and reports of the various stations may be had for the asking. Send to the office of the Experiment Station, Washington, for the monthly list of the publications of the stations.

6. Federal Documents: So much has been written on this subject recently that it is not necessary to do more than mention it here as one of the prolific sources of valuable material.

There are other sources no doubt and other classes of material suitable for many libraries. Enough has been said, however, to indicate the wide range of the subject and the desirability of each librarian studying the needs of her community and then getting in touch with such organizations as distribute literature on those subjects.

WILLIAM M. HEPBURN,
Librarian, Purdue University.

SALARIES OF LIBRARIANS.

Special attention is called to the following article which was sent to the Occurrent by the Committee on Salaries appointed by the Indiana Library Association last October. The matter is an important one and replies to the questions asked should be sent at once to the committee, the members' names being printed below:

"At the meeting of the Indiana Library Association, held in Kokomo, October 18-19, a committee on salaries was appointed, whose duty should be to investigate conditions of libraries in Indiana with reference to the salaries paid. It had been brought to the notice of some of the members of the association that young women trained in the work at the best library schools were employed ten hours a day, sometimes doing all of the work of the library alone, or with incompetent help, and were receiving not more than \$40 a month, some of them but \$35.

Indiana has taken a front rank in library work, it having done this by gradually raising the requirements for library positions. Now a large part of the libraries which have been organized and properly started through the efforts of the Indiana Library Commission re-

quire that the librarian shall have had some library training, and give the preference to one who is college bred. This is, of course, as it should be, and it is only by keeping up to this standard that librarianship may hold its high place among the professions. But, on the other hand, salaries should be on a level with the requirements. The school teacher who has had a college education and been trained at a normal school, is considered valuable enough to receive good compensation, always assuming that she possesses the personality to make her successful in her work. Training perhaps counts only half in teaching and librarianship, and personality the other half. And when we say that the requirements for librarianship are being made higher each year, we imply that consideration of personality is given due importance.

The fact seems to be that the city rulers have not come to think of the library as a factor in the education of the public. They recognize the necessity of schools, but apparently look upon the public library as a luxury. If statistics were taken it would probably be found that not more than one-tenth of the members of city councils use the library regularly; and perhaps one-half would be a fair estimate of the number of library trustees that go to the library for help.

It may be that the time is not yet ripe to demand better pay for librarians. The coming generation being brought up in the library as in the schools, will understand better the necessity of having good books accessible to all the people.

It is not the province of this committee to make any requests in behalf of librarians. Its *raison d'être* is to investigate conditions, and if it is found that librarians are underpaid in proportion to their requirements and abilities, to bring this before the association with some suggestion for betterment. But if salaries are as high as the abilities of librarians seem to warrant, even then the investigation will not have been in vain, for it will serve to establish a standard for those who wish to fix upon a salary for their libraries.

A list of questions is appended, which it is hoped each librarian in the State will answer. The answers should be sent to one of the members of the Committee on Salaries at an early date.

There seems to be a disinclination, by some libraries, to announce the salaries paid, but it is hoped that the work of this committee will be recognized as being along the same lines as other movements for betterment of library conditions, and that the response will be general. Exceeding care will be taken in the preparation of the report and no information made public except that which seems necessary to obtain the desired results.

Send your answers to one of the members of the committee:

1. Have you had a college education?
 2. Have you received any library training, and where?
 3. Have you had any previous experience in library work?
 4. How many assistants have you?
 5. Have they had any library training, and where?
 6. What is the income of your library?
 7. How many bound volumes in your library?
 8. How many hours a day is your library open?
 9. What salary do you receive?
 10. What salary do your assistants receive?
- Committee on Salaries:
 Arden M. Chapin, Librarian Muncie Public Library.
 W. M. Hepburn, Librarian Purdue University.
 Virginia Tutt, Librarian South Bend Public Library."

CLIPPINGS.

Every time a man, woman or child fails to get what he wants in a public library, just so often is the influence of the library in a community weakened. To the average man there are no degrees of difficulty in the problems he brings for solution to the library. To him the color of Marie Antoinette's slippers at a certain ball on a certain night is as reasonable a demand as the latest information concerning automobiles. Hence, no matter how scholarly our catalogues, how numerous our reference books, how complete our magazine files or how learned our reference librarians may be—still there are times and occasions when all these

may be weighed in the balance and found wanting.

In the small library where resources are limited and where the money available for "keeping up with books on new subjects is scarce, the problem of demand and supply becomes more complicated, increasing in exact ratio with the diminishing size of the book collection.

To meet such a condition, the clipping collection was started in the Elwood Public Library. Just before last spring's housecleaning began, a request for old magazines was inserted in the two local newspapers. Within a marvelously short time about three dray loads had drifted in upon us. There were magazines and magazines and *magazines*—good, bad, indifferent. Bravely we set to work sorting them into three piles. The "good" went into the pile which was to fill up broken sets or to be clipped. Duplicates and the "indifferent" went into another pile which was to go into the smoking room. The "bad" went into the junk dealer's pile.

Then the work of clipping, pasting, classifying and filing began. Needless to say the end is not yet, but there is much to show for the work of the past months. Special effort is made to collect articles on biography, history, geography, the industries, science and sociology. Pictures of various kinds are also saved.

We experimented with different mounts and found a good quality of manila paper the cheapest and best for all purposes. The sheets are twenty by twenty-five centimeters in size with two holes punched on one side. These cost six dollars in lots of five thousand. Color plates look especially well against the buff background.

Clippings and pictures are classified according to the Dewey classification, excepting individual biography and portraits. These are filed alphabetically.

The rules for circulation are identical with those for nonfiction. As many as are desired may be drawn at one time.

Our filing cases are built by the Elwood Lumber Company, of quartered oak, four drawers high and cost sixteen dollars. The drawers are twenty-four inches deep, nine inches wide and ten and one-half inches high. Each drawer is provided with a slide to keep the clippings

in place and each holds about one thousand clippings.

The collection is still in its infancy, but it is already past the experimental stage. It has long since proved its right to existence to school teachers, club women, manual laborers and the library staff.

ETHEL F. MCCOLLOUGH,
Elwood, Indiana.

A LIBRARY CHRISTMAS PARTY.

About two weeks before Christmas, the librarian of the Alexandria Public Library invited all the children in the town to a Christmas party to be given at the library on the afternoon of December 22. All children who wished to do so were asked to bring some little thing—a toy, an orange, a bag of candy or anything they wished. These gifts were then to be turned over to the president of the Charity Association, who was to distribute them wherever they were needed most.

The invitation was well received. Accordingly on Saturday afternoon the children's room at the library was crowded with little folks who, having disposed of their parcels, were eagerly awaiting the time when the doors of the lecture room would be opened and the mysteries of the afternoon unfolded to them.

At two o'clock when the doors were opened and the children filed in two by two, they beheld before them a most beautiful Christmas tree in the very tip-top of which was old Santa Claus himself. The blinds were drawn and all was dark save for the flicker of the candle lights on the tree, while the children listened to Christmas stories. After the stories were done the children were lined around three huge "Jack Horner" pies. When each child had been provided with one of the strings hanging from the pies, and all was in readiness, the little folks repeated in concert the familiar lines,

"Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner
Eating his Christmas pie;
He put in his thumb
And pulled —————

Then every one pulled and for the next few minutes the mind of each was intent upon the

toy received. The children went away with happy hearts and with an increased appreciation of the benefits from a public library.

ORPHA M. PETERS,
Librarian.

INDIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The program committee of the Indiana Library Association has announced that the next meeting of the association will be held in Indianapolis, October 17 and 18, 1907. It is planned to make this meeting one of the most successful ones in the history of the association.

INDIANAPOLIS LIBRARY CLUB.

The first meeting of the Indianapolis Library Club was held on January 16, and in spite of the inclement weather over fifty library workers were present. Miss Knowlton, formerly of the Gertrude Stiles bindery, gave an interesting talk on "Famous Binders and Their Work." It was illustrated by beautiful colored plates of famous bindings, loaned by the Newark, N. J., Free Public Library. Miss Anna R. Phelps gave short reviews of notable new books of the holiday season, and an attractive display of new books was made by the Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Company.

A committee composed of D. C. Brown, Miss Eliza G. Browning, Miss Merica Hoagland, Miss Jesse Allen and Chalmers Hadley, was appointed to draft a constitution, which will be considered at the next meeting.

It is proposed to hold monthly meetings of the club from October to June inclusive, the objects being the mutual improvement and social intercourse of its members.

LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS.

Representatives of the Library Commissions of Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Indiana met in Chicago on January 3 and 4, when many important questions of mutual interest were considered. A tentative program for the meeting of the American Library Association in Asheville, N. C., next May was discussed, and it is expected that the League of Commissions'

program at that time will not only be of great value to Commission workers, but to librarians of small and medium-sized libraries in particular as well.

Among the proposed questions to be considered are: The Library Budget, State Certificates and Examinations for Librarians, Some Unsolved Problems of Library Extension, and round table discussions of traveling libraries and summer schools.

BOOKS ON ELECTRICITY.

The attention of Indiana librarians is called to an annotated list of Books on Electricity, published by the Pratt Institute Public Library. The list was prepared by Mr. Herbert L. Cowing, Head of Applied Science Reference Department of the Pratt Institute Free Library. The annotations have been made, as far as possible, from the point of view of the student or user of books who is without special training in electricity. The subject has been so divided that all books treating of certain phases of the subject are put together; for example, X-rays, electric lighting and heating, telegraph, dynamo, electric machinery.

This list will be found very valuable for reference purposes and use in book selection. It can be secured through the Pratt Institute Free Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A BULLETIN SUGGESTION.

Beginning with December and continuing for four months, bulletins will be shown in the children's corner of the Attica Public Library. The subject of each bulletin is one of four of the world's masters of painting. The Attica Art Club has offered to give a prize for the best article written by a pupil in the school grades from two to five, on the artist and his paintings which have been selected for the bulletin. The prize will be the property of the room in which the winner is a pupil. Raphael was the subject for December's bulletin.

KATHERINE FISHER,
Librarian.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

The following list of new traveling library stations have recently been added: Plainfield, Tobinsport, Brownsburg, Parker City, Bryantsville, Laporte, Orleans, Vernon, Reserve, Montgomery, Cayuga, Burnett, Reelsville, Hartsville, Danville, Galveston, Butlersville, Rochester, Paoli, Sellersburg, Sullivan, Franklin, Corydon, Converse, Clayton, and Dublin.

A woman's club in Brownsburg, a town of 650 inhabitants, sent for a traveling library the first of the year. Half a dozen associations were soon formed, with as many libraries. A men's club offered to defray the expenses of a reading room and other incidentals. Several of the ladies have signified their willingness to take charge of the room certain afternoons. It is to be continued for three months, and if a success an attempt will be made by the citizens to form a permanent library.

Mrs. Anna H. Gibson, librarian of the Washington (Ind.) Public Library, also A. L. Pochin of Spencer and C. G. Colglazier of Bedford, presented the subject of traveling libraries at their respective Farmers' Institutes. Associations were formed in each instance. Mr. Colglazier, a progressive farmer, having charge of one of the libraries in his locality, reported a circulation of 90 books in two weeks.

Forty-seven traveling libraries were loaned in December, and 28 new centers were added. Thirty-nine libraries were loaned from January 1 to 26, making a total of 86 libraries in the 57 days. This is an increase of 19 libraries sent out over any previous time during the same number of days. Twelve new centers have been added during the past month.

Six requests for libraries are unfilled owing to lack of libraries. The Commission has at the present time 172 collections, including about 5,900 volumes.

The Commission is in receipt of a letter written by a woman located on a rural route outside of one of the small towns. She asks for information concerning the libraries, saying that in the country the evenings are so long and the daily and weekly papers do not wholly occupy the spare moments until bed time, and as they can not have access to the public libraries are trying to arrange for a circulating libra-

ry. A collection of forty good, readable books was shipped within a short time, which are being largely read and enjoyed. A larger supply of Shakespeare books is in demand by the women's clubs. A library on Bible study and missions is very much wanted by a club in one of the smaller towns. The Commission has had so many requests from the farmers and associations using the general libraries, that it has been unable to assist the study clubs, as it would have been glad to do during this season. The demand from the rural associations for books relating to agriculture is greater than the supply.

The list of books contained in Traveling Library No. 169, not published in Finding Lists:

1. How to choose. Hunt.
2. Self-supporting. Maur.
3. First principles of agriculture. Goff and Mayne.
4. Practical garden book. Hunn and Bailey.
5. Soil. King.
6. Garden-making. Bailey.
7. Principles of fruit growing. Bailey.
8. Principles of vegetable gardening. Bailey.
9. First book of farming. Goodrich.
10. Irrigation and drainage. King.
11. Ten acres enough.
12. Asparagus. Hexamer.
13. George Washington. Wilson.
14. Races and peoples. Brinton.
15. Mind. Iles.
16. Garden. You and I. Barbara.
17. Surgeon's daughter. Scott.
18. Silent places. White.
19. Voice of the street. Poole.
20. Wheel of life. Glasgow.
21. Princess passes. Williamson.
22. Heart's desire. Hough.
23. Cowardice court. McCutcheon.
24. Breakers ahead. Maynard.
25. Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary. Warner.
26. Pit. Norris.
27. Man of the hour. Thanet.
28. Our little Irish cousin. Wade.
29. Adventures in pond-land. Stevens.
30. Dooryard stories. Brown.
31. Boy Lincoln. Stoddard.
32. Tales from Dickens. Rivert.
33. Sandy from the Sierras. Barry.
34. Gentle pioneer. Blanchard.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

TH

anno

Scho

Lake

stru

Chal

er

di

Miss

To

Miss

br

tu

Miss

br

th

Arm

N

Clas

F

Mis

B

T

ten

are

def

con

edg

ing

to

lib

sch

be

ria

co

ab

de

ad

wh

er

35. Old fashioned girl. Alcott.
36. Boys who became famous men. Skinner.
37. Five children and it. Nesbit.
38. School for donkeys. Manners.
39. Yoppy; the autobiography of a monkey. Clifford.
40. Rhymes of little boys. Johnson.

SCHOOL FOR LIBRARIANS.

The Public Library Commission of Indiana announces the sixth course of their Summer School for Librarians to be held at Winona Lake July 8-August 17, with the following instructors:

Chalmers Hadley, Secretary and State Organizer of the Public Library Commission of Indiana, Director.

Miss Merica Hoagland, Director of Winona Technical Institute Library School, Dean.

Miss Anna R. Phelps, Head Instructor of Library School of the Winona Technical Institute, Indianapolis.

Miss Lillian B. Arnold, University of Illinois Library School, Assistant State Organizer for the Public Library Commission of Indiana.

Arne Kildal, University of Christiania, and New York State Library School.

Clarence B. Lester, A. M., Brown University. Fellow University of Wisconsin, 1905-06.

Miss Lavina Knowlton, of the Gertrude Stiles Bindery.

The Summer School for Librarians is intended to meet the need of such librarians as are actually in library positions or under definite appointment, who desire to serve their communities better by acquiring some knowledge of modern library methods. Those wishing to enter the library profession are advised to take advantage of the one or two years' library courses offered by the several library schools.

Admission.—Only those men and women will be admitted to the Summer School for Librarians who have had a four years' high school course, or its equivalent, and who are creditably filling library positions, or are under definite appointment to them. No one will be admitted for a partial course except a student who has already had some training in an accredited school. Entrance examinations will

not be required. Application blanks will be furnished by the Public Library Commission. These must be filled out and signed by each applicant, who must also secure the endorsement of a member of the local library board. Library board members are asked to aid the Commission in raising the standard for librarianship by recommending only such librarians whose character and education fit them to meet satisfactorily the requirements of the library profession.

All applications should be received by June 10th.

Registration.—Those who send in their applications for the Summer School for Librarians must be advised of their admittance before registering at the office of the Winona Assembly and Summer Schools in the Administration Building, Winona Lake, where the tuition fee is to be paid before entering. The Summer School for Librarians opens at two o'clock, Monday afternoon, July 8, in the Mount Memorial building.

Among the speakers during the summer session will be the following: Demarchus C. Brown, State Librarian; Jacob P. Dunn, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Earl, Mr. W. W. Parsons, members of the Public Library Commission; Miss Virginia Tutt, President of the Indiana Library Association; Miss Georgia H. Reynolds, Librarian of the Traveling Libraries of the Public Library Commission, and others.

Expense.—Tuition fee, \$10.00; admission to Assembly grounds, season ticket, \$3.00; textbooks, \$5.25; supplies, \$5.00; room and board, \$5.00 to \$10.00 per week.

Request for additional information or application blanks should be addressed to Chalmers Hadley, Secretary and State Organizer Public Library Commission, State House, Indianapolis, Indiana.

NEWS FROM INDIANA LIBRARIES.

Anderson.—The Scranton International Library of Technology has been put in the library at Anderson and Miss Chipman, the librarian, is planning to issue invitations to the Engineers' Association and to many citizens engaged in mechanical pursuits, to come to the library and use these books. In this

way it is hoped to interest a great many who have not been patrons in the past and make them feel that the library is theirs and that an endeavor will be made to give them practical help along their lines of work.

Bedford.—The Bedford Public Library has a little savings bank on the librarian's desk, into which the people are dropping their pennies to buy a large flag for the library.

Carthage.—A very interesting plan is being followed by the Carthage Henry Henley Library, whereby cases of books are sent to each district school in the township at the beginning of the school year. Each case contains about thirty books suitable for the use of different grades and arrangements are made so that the cases may be changed at any time for a different set. Loans from these books average 100 for each school. For the Christmas exhibit in the children's room at the library a display of the work done by the school children was given—the exhibit was arranged by Miss Coffin, one of the teachers, and consisted of drawings, booklets, stars, stories and number lessons. At present the schools are studying about the Eskimos and Miss Coffin has arranged many pictures illustrating life in cold countries which are greatly appreciated. Wall space in the children's room is in use all the time for the children's benefit and the pictures are changed from time to time as the lessons in the primary grades vary. A great improvement has been made during the past year in having most of the books catalogued. Miss Lillian Henley and Miss Hazel Coffin, graduates of the Winona Technical Institute Library School, had charge of the work and were assisted by the regular library force. It is hoped that the cataloging may be completed in the near future.

Crawfordsville.—The Art League of Crawfordsville has placed in the library two paintings in oil, the work of Crawfordsville artists. These pictures, together with another large one placed there previously by the same club, represent the work of three different artists of the place, and make a very creditable display. The first of the year the Library Board extended the privileges of the library by allowing each patron two books. For this purpose nonfiction cards have been issued. An experiment is be-

ing made with a duplicate collection of some of the most recent fiction, which is rented for five cents a week. The collection is small as yet, but is proving to be a popular innovation.

Delphi.—We quote the following from the second annual report of Miss Gertrude McCain: "Total number of books, 3,015. Of this number 302 are bound magazines, 648 government reports. During the year 210 volumes have been added, of which 93 were by purchase, 48 are public documents and 17 bound magazines. Total circulation of books has been 5,961. Average daily circulation, 21. The use of the children's room in the evening is especially gratifying. One table is devoted to picture books for the very youngest, but often this table also is occupied by the older boys and girls. St. Nicholas and the Youth's Companion are read until they are nearly worn out. There is urgent need of more books for children, and the well-worn covers of the old books tell how the children have appreciated them."

Elkhart.—During the last year 584 books were withdrawn from circulation in the library. They were of the Horatio Alger, Harry Castleman or Elsie Dinsmore variety. An excellent showing has been made by the librarian in the decreased reading of fiction at the expense of nonfiction books. A little over a year ago the proportion of fiction circulated as compared to nonfiction was ten to one. For a year this proportion has been but four to one. The library catalog has been greatly amplified and 30,000 cards have been added. Library of Congress cards are subscribed for and sets of the A. L. A. cards are frequently bought. A successful children's department is in operation and is growing in favor every day, and a marked increase is shown also in the amount of reference work done at the library. At present there are 11,884 volumes in the library and 5,352 borrowers.

Monticello.—Special effort has been made during the past year to increase the circulation of nonfiction books, and the result has been very encouraging. Four hundred and sixty-seven more nonfiction books were given out this year than last.

Rensselaer.—The Jasper County Farmers' Institute was held in the library auditorium January 3 and 4. The librarian gave a short

talk at one session, speaking of the books on agriculture and also the bulletins received and placed on the shelves for use. Those in attendance both days seemed to find it a great pleasure to go through the rooms and examine the books and magazines to be found in various places. As a result many have become borrowers and many others visit the library on Saturday or any time they are in town.

Richmond.—The Morrison-Reeves Library has purchased all of the slides belonging to the history class, numbering in all 800. The slides have been cataloged and will be issued to the public at a cost of three cents a slide. If used in the building no charge will be made. The slides will be issued only to responsible persons. They include pictures of classical paintings, modern paintings, modern and antique sculpture, biography and pictures of different places of interest. They will be of especial value to the various clubs of the city.

Whiting.—The library's collection of mounted pictures is now ready for circulation. The library has collected and mounted some three hundred pictures. These have been classified and arranged in the cabinet provided for them. The pictures include prints of famous paintings, portraits of great men and pictures of their homes, scenes illustrative of travel in various countries and of historical events. It is hoped this collection will prove of interest to the teachers, the club women and many others. The men's reading room, which was opened last November in the basement of the library, has not as yet proved successful. It was thought that the men would be glad of a room where they could come to read and smoke, especially during the winter months, but very few men have used the room at all. It is hoped that by extensive advertising the men may become interested in the smoking room and make use of it. The annual report of the library for the year 1906 shows a decrease of 7.9 per cent. in the fiction circulated, over that of the previous year. The children's books circulated during the year 1906 formed 54 per cent. of the total number of books circulated by the library.

Winamac.—The Winamac Public Library has been open for a little over a year, and during this time has done very satisfactory work with

the schools and clubs, especially in rhetorical and historical lines. At present there are 592 applicants, many of these coming from residents of the township, to whom the privileges of the library have been extended. The library contains 1,241 volumes, and the average daily circulation is 22. An order for \$100 worth of books is now at the publishers.

Evansville.—The Willard Library of Evansville extends its circulation to residents of the rural districts, giving them the same privileges as those living in the city. Special work is done with clubs and schools with good results. The library contains 30,000 volumes and the average daily circulation is 200.

Terre Haute.—The first of the year the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library took up the work of establishing branch libraries in the outlying school districts. Members of the library staff visited the schools and distributed certificates. The teachers responded enthusiastically, and the work is an assured success. Collections of books have been placed in 13 districts, the number of books sent depending upon the number of certificates returned from each building. Several districts sent in over seventy certificates. Typewritten lists of the books are sent to serve as a catalog, and a list of the cardholders is sent with each case of books, thus relieving the teachers as much as possible of any extra burden. Besides this every school building in the city has been visited by the librarians, who have distributed certificates and have given little talks about the library in the various rooms. That the effort has been worth while is proved by the heavy returns. On January 19 the library also inaugurated the "Story Hour." The story is told every Saturday morning at ten o'clock in the club room. That the children appreciate the plan is shown by the crowd of eager little listeners who come every Saturday morning. The talks are given by members of the staff. Later other people will be asked to assist. The beautiful children's room has been made more attractive by a photographic reproduction of the Della Robbia frieze. The photographs are handsomely framed in an architectural frame of mahogany to harmonize with the furnishings. These pictures were a part of the collection given by the Art Club.

Wabash.—The visits to the schools made by the librarian during the fall months have had a telling effect upon the circulation of non-fiction, as brief lists of books adapted to the grade were left in each room.

The charts for geography and history work that have been made are being used and appreciated, and the list will be greatly increased before another school year opens.

One of the strong drawing cards in the children's room this fall was a number of dissected maps which the boys and girls worked with at the reading tables, using large blotters for the sake of quiet and protection of the tables. Snatches of conversations overheard on the street, and the number of brothers, sisters and friends who were brought to the library were proof of a new interest in geography.

The circulation of *Youth's Companions* has been a great help to us in our shortage of books. The numbers making a complete story were fastened together and put in a cover made of heavy gray paper; the illustrated cover of one of the numbers cut out and pasted on the outside made very attractive and durable books.

LIBRARY COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.

Since the last issue of the *Occurrent*, library visits have been made by Commission representatives to Crown Point, Rensselaer, Spencer, Martinsville, Plainfield, Muncie, Fort Wayne, Kendallville, Rushville, Logansport, Terre Haute, Goodland, Carmel, Laporte, Lafayette and Frankfort.

Following the successful book shower for the Spencer Public Library, Miss Arnold, Assistant State Organizer, superintended the opening of the library. She gave special instruction to Miss Morgan, the librarian, and the library is doing excellent work.

The new library at the Indiana Boys' School at Plainfield was visited by Miss Arnold on January 8. Advice was given as to its organization, and library help was given the librarian. Great possibilities for helping the boys lie in the library, and the Commission has advised that special attention be given it.

Mr. Hadley, Secretary of the Commission, met with the library board at Crown Point

and helped with the plans for the new Carnegie library building. On January 23 the Secretary met with the Goodland library board and assisted in its organization. Help was given in the selection of library rooms, and plans are being drawn at the Commission office to convert a vacant storeroom into attractive library quarters.

Editorials advocating the opening of public libraries were written by the Secretary and sent for publication in Kendallville, Ligonier, Goodland, North Vernon and Rushville. At Rushville the Secretary discussed the establishment of a public library with the Wednesday Evening Club, composed of professional men.

At the Farmers' Institute held at Purdue Mr. Hadley spoke on Traveling Libraries. Miss Reynolds, librarian of the traveling libraries, gave an address on her work at the State meeting of the Township Trustees' Association.

Work is progressing on the *Indiana Bulletin*, which the Commission expects to distribute to Indiana libraries. It will contain information regarding publications concerning Indiana, and a selected list of books written by Indiana authors not available elsewhere.

The Secretary of the Library Commission and Miss Hoagland, former secretary, met with the City Council of Kendallville and discussed the establishment of a public library. One Kendallville citizen has offered a beautiful building site for a library, Andrew Carnegie has offered money for a building and a Kendallville manufacturing firm has agreed to furnish and maintain a technical department in the library.

Special instruction in library methods has been given at the Carmel public library by the Assistant State Organizer. Carmel has one of the smallest public libraries in Indiana, but it is a popular and valuable institution in the town.

The pamphlet, "Essentials of Library Administration," one of the most valuable publications of its kind in print, has been distributed to members of numerous library boards during the last month.

Recommendations for appointments to the Ligonier library board by the Library Commission received favorable consideration from

the appointing powers, and a most promising board is now back of the public library.

Floor plans of excellent libraries and blue prints showing the construction of library furniture are being collected by the Commission for the use of libraries. Much money can be saved a library through having its furniture constructed according to good plans by home labor.

Much help in the selection of serviceable library bindings has been given by the Commission. Sample bindings were sent to the Vincennes public library.

The Library Commission is assisting the committee of the Indiana Library Association in its investigation of librarians' salaries in Indiana. The report on salaries will be a feature of the next meeting of the association.

The Secretary of the Library Commission of Indiana is one of a committee of three to report at the American Library Association meeting next May on "State Certificates and Examinations of Librarians." The Secretary has been asked by the League of Library Commissions to compile for publication newspaper material to be used in helping library progress through the press.

"There is nothing that makes men rich and strong but that which they carry inside of them. Wealth is of the heart, not of the hand."—John Milton.

"Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings, those who cheer today will curse tomorrow, only one thing endures—character."—Horace Greeley.

"All the strength of the world, and all its beauty, all its real joy, all that consoles and

adds to hope, all that which sheds light on obscure paths, all that shows us across our poor lives some sublime aim and some immense future, comes to us from simple beings who have assigned to their desires another object than the passing satisfactions of egotism and vanity, and who have understood that the science of life consists in knowing how to give one's life."—The Simple Life.

AN IMPROVED LIBRARY PLAN.

The utility of suggesting the right thing or anything that is good, has been illustrated in the experience of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore. As related by World's Work every month a collection of books of some particular subject is put in the delivery room where they can be seen by all visitors. For one month a collection of books on fine arts was displayed and the number of volumes taken out showed an increase of about 40 per cent. over the month before. The next month "essays and miscellanies" were placed in view and the increase was over 30 per cent. and about the same result followed with a display of biography, while an exhibition of books on travels caused a rise of a hundred per cent. in the reading.

The experience of other libraries has proved that when the books are made easily accessible the demand is largely increased.

The remark is made that this suggestion is valuable to publishers and book sellers and also to "educationalists," who, in adopting it, would be imitating the enterprise of the retail merchant, who knows the importance of displaying his wares.



